



Congressman Tim Bishop

FIRST DISTRICT -- NEW YORK

NEWS RELEASE

APRIL 16, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BISHOP LEADS EFFORT TO PROTECT FLIGHT 800 MEMORIAL

Opposes Efforts to Move Memorial from Current Site, Joined in Effort by Schumer

Fire Island—Congressman Tim Bishop today held an event with Suffolk County legislators, family members, and other officials to discuss efforts to protect the Flight 800 Memorial at Smith Point Park on Fire Island. Violent winter storms have severely eroded the beach there, leaving the memorial one major storm away from being ruined. This winter, the beach eroded from 100 feet to 50 feet. Bishop spoke of the need to protect the memorial at its current site.

“This park, where the land and water meet, is sacred ground, bound by the blood of our loved ones and the sweat and toil of Long Island’s heroes,” Bishop said. “We owe it to their memory to do whatever is in our power to protect this land. And we owe it to future generations to allow them to visit this spot, which represents the best our community has to offer.”

“We were shocked to see the extent of the erosion and the jeopardy of the memorial, and we’re deeply embarrassed to have to ask for help again,” John Seaman, President of Families of TWA Flight 800 said. “But we’re very happy have the support of Congressman Bishop to help us prevent another tragedy for the families and for the entire community.”

In the short term, it is up to Suffolk County to find the funding to meet any immediate beach replenishment needs. Bishop pledged to work towards a long-term solution through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Bishop met with Corps of Engineers officials on Monday, including an overflight of the Flight 800 Memorial site in a helicopter.

“In addition to being awed by the beauty of this site, I also felt determined that there is in fact much we can do to save it,” Bishop said.

Bishop sits on the House Transportation and Infrastructure’s Subcommittee on Water Resources and the Environment, which authorizes Corps of Engineers projects. Bishop will work to include this project when his committee re-authorizes the Water Resources Development Act this summer.

While Bishop will work on this project as the representative of the district where the Flight 800 crashed, he appealed to his colleagues in Congress to help and was joined by Senator Charles E. Schumer (D-NY).

“I will urge my colleagues to join me, because while Flight 800 crashed along our shoreline, what happened here was a national tragedy,” Bishop said. “And I would hope that we can join together as a nation to properly honor the victims.”

“This memorial has national significance and is important to hundreds of families, we want the Army Corps of Engineers to step in as quickly as possible and prevent any further erosion,” Schumer said.

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